

## Message Text

PAGE 01 COLOMB 02746 021125Z

13

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 013368

O R 021100Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 204

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T COLOMBO 2746

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJ: US NAVAL TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

REF: COLOMBO 2740, STATE 216206, COLOMBO A-245 (NOV 1, 1973)

1. SUN NEWSPAPER STORY NOV 2 QUOTES MDFA DEPUTY MINISTER LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY AS SAYING IT WOULD BE UNFAIR FOR GSL TO COMMENT ON US TASK FORCE ON BASIS NEWS REPORTS WITHOUT OBTAINING FIRST-HAND INFORMATION FROM AMB IN WASHINGTON. EARLIER JAYAKODY, IN REPLY TO QUESTION DURING OCT 23 PRESS CONFERENCE (AS REPORTED DAILY

NEWS), SAID THAT GSL'S PURSUIT OF INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE WAS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH PORT CALLS BY FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS AND IOPZ PROPOSAL DID NOT MEAN FOREIGN NAVIES SHOULD NOT HAVE RIGHT OF PASSAGE. TODAY'S ITEM BY GOVT-CONTROLLED DAILY NEWS RECALLED THESE JAYAKODY STATEMENTS AND ALSO MENTIONED THAT IN ADDITION TO VISIT BY USS WHIPPLE, SHIPS FROM INDIA, RUSSIA, AND MALAYSIA HAD RECENTLY CALLED AT COLOMBO. THESE STRAWS INDICATE GSL MAY BE INCLINED TO PLAY DOWN PRESENCE OF US TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN.

2. AMB KANAKARATNE MAY BE INSTRUCTED APPROACH DEPT IN ORDER REPORT ON TASK FORCE TO MDFA.

SECRET

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IN ANY EVENT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR DEPT TO DISCUSS MOVEMENT WITH HIM ALONG LINES SECTY TOOK IN DISCUSSION WITH INDIAN FOREIGN SECTY (STATE 216206). WE WISH NOTE THAT IF GSL

PERCEIVES TASK FORCE ACTION AS DIRECTED AGAINST SOVIETS,  
IT MAY WELL DOWN-PLAY ISSUE. HOWEVER, IF IT  
BELIEVES ACTION IS DIRECTED AGAINST ARABS, ITS REACTION  
MAY BE MORE CRITICAL AND UNHELPFUL.  
VAN HOLLEN

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 11 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US NAVAL TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN  
**TAGS:** MARR, US, IO  
**To:** STATE INFO NEW DELHI  
**Type:** TE  
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